I was on Facebook for a very long time. For over 13 years, I posted something new I had learned, every single day- over 4,700 posts devoted to that subject alone.

I still do it (offline) - it's a habit that has, I think, made a huge positive difference in my life and worldview (and given me plenty of fodder for zines)...

...but I'd be lying if I said the validation from posting them, and watching others engage with them, wasn't a factor.

Can I really afford to turn my back on a major source of it?

- AND YES -

I do feel like I'm missing important things in the lives of friends and family, events, community news...

My job is information, after all.

"Hell is empty,
And all the devils
are here."

-The Tempest
Act I, Scene 2

Thomas Vose CC-BY-NC 3/10/25
tvose@hotmail.com

I am exploring other options, poking at some platforms.

I really like the Fediverse as a concept, but this is a pretty fragmented experience.

Wikipedia's network, Trust Cafe has good vibes - but there's not a lot going on. I do like its potential quite a bit.

I never really liked the Twitter format, and this clone seems doomed to the same shitty fate.

Discord's UI is terrible, but it works all right for certain things. It's going public, though, with... see above.

Dumb as it may sound, this was, perhaps, the tipping point. :)

coming soon:

It's like we want to scrub off all the edges of social interaction - hide safely behind a screen, put forth the minimum, and call it good. And so, the "Relationship muscle" atrophies.

---

in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one person to dissolve the social bands which have connected him with others, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

But we also have to keep perspective. Humanity got along without this shit for virtually all its existence.

It seems a lot like all that social media has done has been to undermine both media and society.

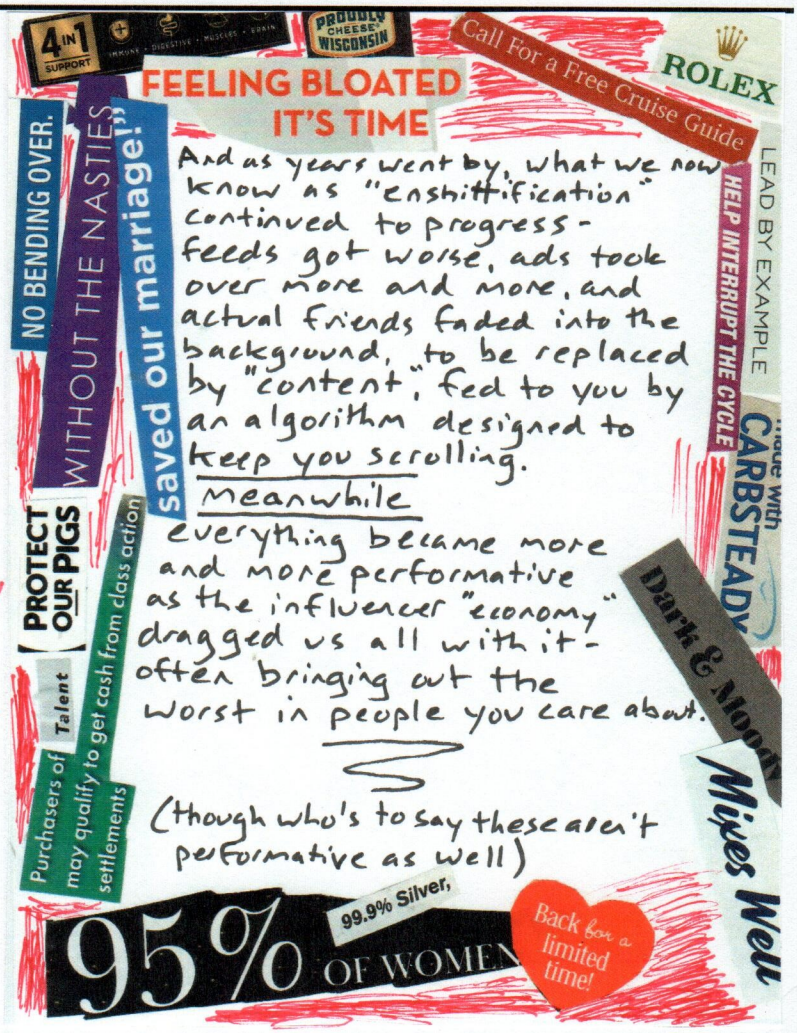
(Bring back pub chats, I say!)

David Teniers the Younger,

"Monkey Tavern"

and I am tired of being manipulated by billionaire sociopaths selling meshit strip-mining my information and pushing their agendas.

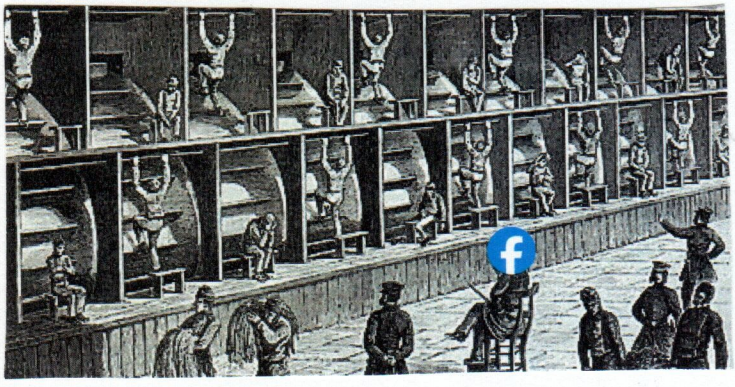
But I knew I'd be back if I didn't delete the account this time, to remove the temptation.


4 IN 1 SUPPORT
PROUDLY CHEESE WISCONSIN
Call For a Free Cruise Guide
ROLEX
FEELING BLOATED
IT'S TIME
NO BENDING OVER.
WITHOUT THE NASTIES
saved our marriage!"
LEAD BY EXAMPLE
HELP INTERRUPT THE CYCLE
And as years went by, what we now know as "enshittification" continued to progress - feeds got worse, ads took over more and more, and actual friends faded into the background, to be replaced by "content", fed to you by an algorithm designed to keep you scrolling.
Meanwhile
everything became more and more performative as the influencer "economy" dragged us all with it - often bringing out the worst in people you care about.
(though who's to say these aren't performative as well)
PROTECT OUR PIGS
Talent
Purchasers of may qualify to get cash from class action settlements
99.9% Silver,
95% OF WOMEN
Back for a limited time!
Mixes Well

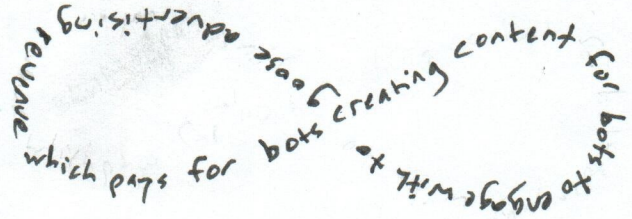
At one point I did try to get off.
It lasted about a month -
and then I was back
(with my tail between my legs)

Why? - FOMO - a lot of that
- Feeling like I was losing a chunk of my life

And what was worst - the realization that Facebook was, effectively, holding my friends as hostages -
- which never went away.



And then AI became the new hotness and it felt as if the bullshit just exploded.

(Seriously - bot friends? I'm not that desparate for people to engage with.)

Now it's an endless feed of banality - dancing monkeys desparately trying to eke out a following - rage and fear fueling itself through algorithmic engagement -